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Central Intelligence Agency

Washington, D.C. 20505

30 September 1988

Dear Members of AFIO:

I regret that I must be abroad during AFIO's annual convention. I was looking forward to meeting with all of you and am disappointed not to be present.

I understand your program focuses on intelligence analysis, and so I would like to pass on a few thoughts about some of the Intelligence Community's recent analytical successes as well as some of our upcoming challenges.

The Intelligence Community has had some notable analytical successes during the past year. We were a major player in the conclusion of the INF treaty, supporting the U.S. negotiating team in Geneva and providing information to both Congress and the Administration during the ratification process. In a related effort, we furnished intelligence to policymakers during the U.S.-Soviet summit meeting in Moscow. The Intelligence Community's analysis of the Iran-Iraq conflict has highlighted our ability to provide tactical intelligence. When the U.S. presence in the Gulf was increased, we began providing daily support to naval forces operating with the U.S. Central Command.

Some of our recent analytical successes suggest the nature of tomorrow's analytical problems. We face new challenges in old issues -- Gorbachev's reform effort and his new approach in foreign policy have many implications for U.S. interests. Arms control will remain a major analytical effort, as we monitor the INF treaty and support negotiation of the START treaty. Global issues such as the expanding problem of international terrorism and the equally troubling problem of chemical weapons will continue to demand our attention.

I appreciate your commitment to promoting high standards in intelligence, and I look forward to learning the results of your work during this convention. I also want to recognize the value of AFIO's Academic Assistance Program in educating our nation's students about intelligence -- students who may one day be producers or consumers of our intelligence analysis.

All of you have already contributed much to the security of this country. Your support and insight still mean a great deal to us as we continue the work that you have done so much to advance.

Sincerely yours,

William H. Webster
Director of Central Intelligence

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